

*** Meeting minutes should be considered DRAFT until approved at the next council meeting. ***

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Meeting

Date: Monday, November 6, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX 78719

Meeting chaired by: Karen Guz, Presiding Officer

Meeting Facilitators: TWDB support staff

<i>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</i>	Jennifer Allis	<i>Institutional Water Users</i>	Bill Hoffman
<i>Texas Department of Agriculture</i>	Alternate David Villarreal	<i>Professional Organizations Focused on Water Conservation</i>	Carole Baker
<i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Alternate Lynne Hamlin	<i>Higher Education</i>	Tim Loftus
<i>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</i>	Alternate Steven Bednarz	<i>Agricultural Groups</i>	-----
<i>Texas Water Development Board</i>	Alternate Kevin Kluge	<i>Refining and Chemical Manufacturing</i>	Craig Elam
<i>Regional Water Planning Groups</i>	Aubrey Spear	<i>Electric Generation</i>	-----
<i>Federal Agencies</i>	Maria Martinez	<i>Mining and Recovery of Minerals</i>	CJ Tredway
<i>Municipalities</i>	Karen Guz	<i>Landscape Irrigation and Horticulture</i>	Anai Padilla
<i>Groundwater Conservation Districts</i>	-----	<i>Water Control and Improvement Districts</i>	Alternate Dustan Compton
<i>River Authorities</i>	Matt Phillips	<i>Rural Water Users</i>	-----
<i>Environmental Groups</i>	Ken Kramer	<i>Municipal Utility Districts</i>	Donna Howe
<i>Irrigation Districts</i>	-----		

Also present: (Alternates) Denise Hickey, Eddie Trevino, Ruthanne Haut and Jennifer Walker; and (Interested Parties) Dan Strub, Jessica Woods, Beth Hood, Perry Fowler, Stephen Cortes, Kathleen Ligon, Temple McKinnon, Natalie Houston, Karen Magid, Michelle Camp, Valerie Miller, Dub Taylor and Charlie Flatten.

- Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2017, meeting

The council took up minutes from the previous meeting. Minutes were approved.

- Public Comment

There was no public comment.

- Update from Texas Water Development Board

Kevin Kluge introduced Dr. Tim Loftus as the new Higher Education member.

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Kevin reported that the joint WSC-WSI board item to publish amendments to 31 TAC 358, whereby those preparing water loss audits will be required to complete training to do so beforehand, was approved at the October 17 TWDB board meeting. The rule revision will now be posted in the Texas Register and open for public comment for 30 days. Final approval by the board is anticipated in January.

Kevin also reported that the planning side of the TWDB had recently received responses to a Request for Proposal to update the uniform costing model which is used by the regional planning groups to cost out strategies, one of which is conservation; this should provide more consistent figures in the determination of future water conservation strategy costs.

The revised wholesale water BMP was recently posted to the TWDB web site at www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs/WS/index.asp. In going through the development or revision process for a BMP, in the last (Formalization) stage, it was agreed to change the wording from “adopted by the TWDB” to “approved by the TWDB EA”.

Mindy Conyers, who has served as the WCAC TWDB liaison for the last three years has assumed a new position within the agency. The hiring of a new person to assume the WCAC support role is currently under way.

- Discussion on updating the council’s bylaws

Jennifer Allis reported on the conference call between her, Sarah Schlessinger, Cindy Loeffler and Kevin Kluge. One of the issues is lack of clarity on how a quorum is reached and when a vote is needed because of lack of consensus. It was suggested that the quorum of 12 should be defined to include both members and designated alternates, and that, when there is a lack of consensus on an issue, a majority would be 16 votes (2/3 majority) cumulatively between members and alternates. Another issue is the need to update the process for election of the presiding officer – it was suggested that perhaps look at how other councils operate, perhaps have written nominations and then a vote by ballot; possibly the formation of a nominations workgroup. Regarding workgroups themselves, there is currently nothing specified about having a designated chair or co-chair – should this be updated or continue as is, with informal chairs? There will be further discussion on these and other issues, after which the subcommittee will present formal recommendations for change(s) to the council.

- Discussion regarding the Best Management Practices update survey

Karen Guz reported that a document summarizing all current municipal BMPs and their respective numbers of years in existence was received from TWDB staff, showing which dated back to 2004, when they were introduced, and which had been updated at least once since then. After reviewing, Karen suggested a meeting be set up for the Municipal workgroup to discuss and prioritize municipal BMPs, with a goal of trying to get funding to take care of several at the same time, preferably before Christmas. She is working to set the timeline so that any changes will be finalized before 2019 when most entities will be updating their conservation plans. Discussion will include the need to add, remove or expand BMPs.

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- Reports from Workgroups

- Agriculture – nothing to report
- Commercial & Institutional – Bill Hoffman is currently reviewing suggested changes to his draft best management practices guide for the commercial and institutional sectors.
- Industrial – nothing to report
- Municipal – Karen Guz mentioned the ongoing plan to update municipal conservation best management practices.
- Public Awareness – nothing to report.
- Water Loss – the Texas section of the AWWA offered assistance with outreach and education relating to the new water loss auditor training requirements. Jennifer noted that the 30-day comment period for the proposed rules for HB 1573 ends December 3, 2017.
- Wholesale – nothing to report

- Announcement of conferences and events

The 2018 North American Water Loss conference will be held from December 3 -5, 2017 in San Diego, CA.

The Central Texas Water Efficiency Network's annual conference will be held on February 1, 2018, in Austin.

The 2018 AWWA/WEF Utility Management Conference will be held in San Antonio from February 20-23.

Water and the US-Mexico border – Innovative Water Strategies to Meet Municipal Water Needs, March 1 – 2, 2018 in El Paso.

The Gulf Coast Water Efficiency Network's conference occurs March 22, 2018, in Houston.

- Discussion and selection of dates and locations of future meetings

The Municipal Workgroup will meet on November 28th at 10:30 a.m. in Room 108S of the LCRA's Redbud Center at 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703.

The Water Loss Workgroup will meet on November 28th at 1:30 p.m. in Room 108S of the LCRA's Redbud Center at 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, TX 78703.

The next meeting of the Council will occur on January 17th at 10:30 a.m. at 1340 Airport Commerce Drive, Austin, TX, 78719, in the building 6 conference room.

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- Presentation on “Statewide Water Conservation Quantification Project” by Kevin Kluge.

Presentation slides posted to www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/council-meetings.asp.

- Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.